

What Frog Pond Means to Me

I was born in Minnesota and grew up surrounded by my cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. In the summer of 1987, when I was nine years old, I thought my parents ruined my life. My dad was offered a better paying position in Oregon and he agreed to take it. They packed me and my brother up and we were off to the west coast, far away from our friends and extended family. No more overnights at my grandparents' house, no more ringing the doorbell next door at my best friend Sara's house, I was devastated. My parents found a nice house in Wilsonville and soon we began making new friends with our neighbors. My parents met Marty and Dean Braymen and they introduced them to a little church called Frog Pond. It was very important to my parents that my brother and I attended church regularly until we were confirmed, at which point it was our decision if we wished to continue attending or not. I became very involved in the youth group and I will always remember one man in particular that was very special to me in my teenage years, his name was Dick White. Those of you who knew him know exactly why he was so near and dear to my heart. There was something different about him. I could talk to him with ease and not feel judged, and for a teenager that's huge. He would wrap his arms around me in a big hug and I knew everything would be ok. After I was confirmed life happened and I stopped attending church regularly. I started having children and was working on the weekends. About two years ago my life changed dramatically and I started realizing just how important it was to me for my children to grow up in the church just as I had, so I came back home to frog pond. My children and I were met with open arms and I remembered many of the faces I had known as a child. The one face that was missing was Dicks. I heard the terrible news that I had missed him by only 3 months. I was so saddened that I couldn't give him a big hug and finally tell him just how much he had meant to me.

Every Sunday my kids are excited and look forward to coming to frog pond. They have an amazing church family that supports and loves them. The giving tree last year helped them to have a Christmas that wouldn't have been possible otherwise and your generosity is greatly appreciated. The special time that they get to spend together with their grandfriends and other church friends is priceless. Frog pond is a community of people that are there for each other and help each other no matter how big or small the need. To me frog pond means family. I am proud to be a frog ponder and to be raising my kids with such an incredible group of people.